

FALL OF BLOEMFONTEIN

Surrender of the Orange Free State Capital to the British Military Forces.

Lord Roberts Now in Possession, and the Flag of His Country Floating Over the Former Home of "Mr. Steyn, Late President."

FIRST HALF OF THE CAMPAIGN OVER

Free State Regarded as Already Having Been Merged Into Victoria's Empire.

Victors Welcomed by the Burghers of the City—Rejoicing in England—Queen Delighted—"Little Bobs" Lauded—Steyn's Flight.

LONDON, March 15.—Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, is now in possession of British forces, and the "late" president of the republic is a fugitive. Lord Roberts makes this announcement in the following dispatch to the War Office:

"Bloemfontein, March 13, 8 p. m.—With the help of God and by the bravery of her Majesty's soldiers, the troops under my command have taken possession of Bloemfontein. The British flag now floats over the presidency, evacuated last evening by Mr. Steyn, late President of the Orange Free State. Mr. Frazer, member of the late executive government, the mayor, the secretary to the late government, the landrost, and other officials, met me two miles from the town, and presented me with the keys of the public offices. The enemy have withdrawn from the neighborhood, and all seems quiet. The inhabitants of Bloemfontein gave the troops a cordial welcome."

The above dispatch, though dated Tuesday, was not received at the War Office until 7:30 o'clock Wednesday night. It was made public a few minutes before 9. The delay is attributed to the field telegraphs not being connected with Bloemfontein on Tuesday evening. Extra papers were soon on the streets, and the night crowds of London at once began singing patriotic songs and engaging in demonstrations.

Lord Roberts's dispatch caused a feeling of great relief. The absence of the news eagerly looked for had provoked some apprehension during the earlier part of yesterday that the British had met with a check before Bloemfontein, and anxious inquiries were made at the War Office and in the lobbies of Parliament.

On the reception of the news the Queen, at Windsor Castle, the Prince of Wales, at Marlborough House, Lord Wolseley and others were immediately notified, but at 9 o'clock the War Office was almost deserted, the public having given up hope of further news until to-day (Thursday). The appearance of the newspapers with the tidings caused great excitement along Pall Mall, at the service clubs and in the West End generally. Owing to the late hour, however, there was no demonstration approaching the slightest degree those heralding the surrender of Cronje and the relief of Ladysmith.

It so happened that a torchlight procession organized on an extensive scale for the widows' and orphans' fund was parading South London with bands and banners. This included a body of uniformed men representing the British field forces, the surrender of Cronje and other inspiring incidents. The route was hung with flags, and stands were erected at numerous points for spectators. Naturally the appearance of the extra editions of the evening papers created a furore among the paraders, who greeted the news with cheers and singing of the national hymn.

At Windsor the news was received with much joy. The Queen commanded that it be immediately published, and she instructed her equerry at the dinner table to send a note to the officers of the household brigade. The battalion was called on parade at 10:15 o'clock last night. Major St. Aubyn read her Majesty's note and called for cheers for the Queen and Lord Roberts. The band played "God Save the Queen."

Wherever Lord Roberts's dispatch was

read his reference to the "late" President Steyn and the "late" executive was immediately fastened upon as highly significant. The lord announced the news at a banquet to the masters of the city companies which was in progress at the Mansion House. It was received with great cheering, the company rising and singing "God Save the Queen."

The evening papers in Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow published special editions, causing joyful demonstrations in those cities.

ROBERTS GIVEN AN OVATION.

Welcomed by the People of Bloemfontein—Mr. Steyn's Flight.

LONDON, March 15.—A dispatch to the Daily Chronicle, from Bloemfontein, dated Tuesday evening, says:

"Bloemfontein surrendered at 10 o'clock to-day. It was occupied at noon. President Steyn, with a majority of the fighting burghers, has fled northward."

General French was within five miles of the place at 5 o'clock Monday afternoon. He sent a summons into the town, threatening to bombard unless it surrendered by 4 a. m., Tuesday. A white flag was hoisted Tuesday morning and a deputation of the Town Council, with the mayor, came out to meet Lord Roberts at Spitzkop, five miles south of the town, making a formal surrender of the place.

"Lord Roberts made a state entry at noon. He received a tremendous ovation. After visiting the public buildings, he went to the official residence of the President, followed by a cheering crowd, who waved the British flag and sang the British national anthem. They were in a condition of frenzied excitement."

"On Monday afternoon, previous to the surrender, there had been a little sniping and shelling, but the enemy then retired."

"Lord Roberts has his headquarters at the President's house, and there are many of the British wounded in the building. The railway is not injured."

Steyn at Winburg.

LONDON, March 15.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Bloemfontein, dated Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock, says: "We surprised and outfought the enemy with irresistible force over night. General French held the enemy north and south of Bloemfontein while Lord Roberts dispatched a prisoner on parole, threatening to bombard unless the city surrendered. The townspeople became alarmed. President Steyn and the chief members of the executive council fled and proclaimed Kroonstad to be the capital. Steyn fled to Winburg. At last only 3,000 fighting men remained, and in the morning many, finding themselves so weakened, broke their guns. Others fled. The remnant still shelled General French at dawn, but the opposition soon collapsed."

"Eight locomotives and much rolling stock were captured. The Boer organization is collapsing and the breach between the Free Staters and Transvaalers is widening."

"Major General Pretorius has been appointed military governor of Bloemfontein. Lord Roberts and his staff have ridden through the town and been everywhere cheered. The British national anthem is enthusiastically sung by the population, the shops are gladly opening and there is general rejoicing."

ROBERTS THE HERO OF THE HOUR.

His Work During the Past Month Regarded as Marvelous.

LONDON, March 15.—4:50 a. m.—The first half of the campaign is over. Lord Roberts arrived at Modder river on Feb. 2. He entered Bloemfontein on March 13. Thus, in a little over a month he has effected the relief of Kimberley and Ladysmith, the capture of General Cronje's forces and the holding of the British flag in the capital of the Free State. All this

has been accomplished with comparatively trifling losses. It is no small wonder that he is the hero of the hour in England. All the newspapers eulogize him and congratulate the country. They talk of the Free State as having passed out of existence and as now being one of the shadows of history.

It is not doubted that there may yet be heavy fighting, but the genius of Lord Roberts is looked to for victory over all difficulties. His grim reference to the "late" President Steyn is understood to show that there shall be no ambiguity as to the position assumed toward the republic. The fact that Mr. Frazer, late chairman of the Free State Raad, and leader to the opposition to Mr. Steyn, came with the deputation to surrender the keys, is regarded as extremely significant of considerable difference of opinion among the Free Staters regarding the war.

It is said that President Kruger hates Mr. Frazer on account of his sympathy with the outlanders. The demonstrations of the Bloemfontein inhabitants are also regarded as a good augury for the future of the British supremacy.

It is interesting, in connection with the rapid advance of Lord Roberts, to learn that the Russian military attaches with the Boers, who were captured by the British, sent the following telegram to the Czar: "I am perfectly amazed at the energy in action and the endurance of the British infantry. I need say no more."

There is still no news as to whether Lord Roberts has captured any rolling stock. If he has not, then he will be obliged to wait until the repairing of the bridges over the Orange river enables him to bring rolling stock up.

The British continue pressing their advances on the Orange river. The Boers still hold Bethulle bridge, on the north side of the stream, but their trenches are dominated by the British artillery. Heavy firing is in progress and there has been some skirmishing.

Lord Kitchener seems to be very successful in reducing the extent of the Dutch rising.

Joy at Cape Town.

CAPE TOWN, March 14.—A great popular demonstration took place here on receipt of the news that Bloemfontein had been occupied by the British. All the church bells were rung and a procession, headed by the union jack, went to the government house, where Sir Alfred Milner made his acknowledgments. The demonstrators sang "God Save the Queen," and then paraded through the principal streets, cheering and singing patriotic songs.

NEXT MOVE BY ROBERTS.

May March South and Assist the Other British Forces.

LONDON, March 15.—Spencer Wilkinson in the Morning Post says: "It is not impossible that a railway is being made from Modder river or Kimberley to Bloemfontein. In any case, after a pause to complete the reorganization of his communications, Lord Roberts will move his troops southward on the restored railway line to meet the British generals advancing from the Orange river. The occupation of Bloemfontein will precipitate the retreat of the Boer forces from the Orange river districts. The Free State forces are evidently well beaten, and small blame to them. The outside estimate of their numbers before the war was 20,000, of whom a few thousands are on the Orange river or watching the Natal passes. They will be unable by themselves to fight another pitched battle, but they may furnish a respectable contingent to the Transvaal army, unless, as seems likely, they desert to their farms."

WILL FIGHT TO FINISH.

Krugers Says Death Only Will Still the Boer Resistance.

NEW YORK, March 14.—A dispatch from President Kruger to the Evening Journal, dated Pretoria, March 13, 8 p. m., via Berlin, says: "The burghers will only cease fighting with death. Our forces are returning in good order to our line of defense on our own soil. The Natal campaign was longer in our favor than we expected. The British will never reach Pretoria. The burghers, Steyn, Joubert and myself, as well as all the others, are united. There are no differences. God help us."

Will Destroy Johannesburg.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Montague White confirms the rumors that the Boers will utterly destroy Johannesburg if forced to do so. Pretoria could not be defended, he says, if Johannesburg were permitted to remain. He hopes "that something may be done to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of both belligerents before such a catastrophe to civilization happens. But the Boers will sacrifice Johannesburg and its beautiful buildings and modern adjuncts to civilization if they are forced to do it. Then it will be a light to the last drop of blood for the possession of Pretoria."

The Boer Reply to Salisbury.

LONDON, March 15.—The Daily Mail has the following dispatch from Pretoria, dated Monday, March 12: "Lord Salisbury's reply has been received and a Boer refutation of the British contention is under consideration. It will deny that any action has been made and it will declare that the occupation of the British territory was purely strategic. It will express the determination of the two republics to fight to the finish."

Disappointment at Pretoria.

PRETORIA, Monday, March 12, via Lourenço Marques, March 13.—Lord Salisbury's reply to Presidents Kruger and Steyn causes bitter disappointment, and State Secretary Reitz says it means that the war will have to be fought to the bitter end.

NO SURPRISE IN FRANCE.

French Editors Predicted the Occupation of Bloemfontein.

PARIS, March 15.—The occupation of Bloemfontein caused no surprise here. Most of the papers had predicted the event; and they now express the opinion that the war is about to enter a stage more rude than ever. The advanced press is indignant at Great Britain's intention to annex the South African republics.

The Matin says: "The English are now going to undertake the siege, not of a fortified town, but of an entire country which is organized at the present time like a vast entrenched camp."

On the other hand, M. Valfrey, the well-known political writer of the Figaro, considers that the issue of the war is certain despite the difficulties ahead. Referring to the declaration of the British government on the conditions of peace he says: "They far exceed Lord Salisbury's original engagements. As for the projects of American or European intervention, these cannot be taken seriously. Indeed, if the subject were less tragic they would be laugh-

able. If six days were necessary for Lord Salisbury to reply to the Kruger-Steyn message it is to be presumed that he profited by the delay to assure himself regarding the attitude of the powers."

HUNTER NOW IN COMMAND.

He Finds the Boers in Strong Position on the Natal Border.

LADYSMITH, Wednesday, March 14.—The Boers have been located in several strong positions near the junction of the Drakensberg and the Elandsburg ranges. They have heavy guns in position on Pongweni kop, at Hlatikulu and in the Inqati mountains, as well as at Gibson's farm, near Cundysburgh pass.

General Hunter now commands the division. Both men and horses of the relief column are completely recovered and are now in the pink of condition.

The reconstruction of the railway from Ladysmith to Dundee is progressing rapidly.

FOUGHT LIKE HEROES.

Boer Account of How the Burghers Defended the Abraham Knaal.

PRETORIA, Tuesday, March 13.—Commander Delany's report of the fight at Abraham Knaal Saturday says: "The Boers were estimated to number 40,000 men. Their first assault was repulsed. Only two Boers were wounded. The second assault was made on the hills to the left of our position. These hills were of great strategic importance. Appreciating this, I and 300 men defended the position from 9 o'clock in the morning until sundown. The burghers fought like heroes, and three times repulsed masses of the British, who kept relieving their tired men. Every attempt to storm was defeated. At sundown there were not fifty yards between us. The British lost heavily. No accurate returns of our loss are available."

EN ROUTE TO ST. HELENA.

Boer Prisoners Who Hoped to Escape—Letters in Watermelons.

CAPE TOWN, March 14.—Another plot has just been discovered to free the Boer prisoners at Simon's Town. The remarkable quantities of watermelons received by the prisoners aroused comment, and investigation discovered that compromising letters were contained in the melons, the writers planning the escape of the captives. Great satisfaction is felt here at the fact that transports with the bulk of the prisoners sail for St. Helena to-night.

BOSHOF GARRISONED.

Methuen Found Guns and Ammunition and Arrested Six Traitors.

CAPE TOWN, March 14.—The British troops under Lord Methuen have returned to Kimberley from the occupation of Boshof, Orange Free State. Guns and seventy thousand rounds of ammunition were seized and a strong garrison was left to guard the town. Six burghers were arrested on charges of treason. Shortly after the residents were hearing mourning, is the Boshof commandant took two hundred men at the battle of Belmont.

PLUMER FORTY MILES AWAY.

The Colonel Fighting His Way to the Relief of Mafeking.

CAPE TOWN, March 14.—Colonel Plumer is now within forty miles of Mafeking. His force reached Lobatse on Tuesday, March 6. It is believed that only a single bridge southward was destroyed and that otherwise the railroad is intact within five miles of Mafeking. Colonel Plumer has already dispersed several Boer police posts in the neighborhood and is actively pushing his advance southward.

PEACE PROPOSITIONS.

President McKinley's Rejected Appeal—Another Overture Probable.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The answer of Lord Salisbury to the message from President Kruger, which was transmitted through our government, was received at a late hour last night by Secretary Hay, through Mr. White, our charge at London, as indicated in the London dispatches, the answer was a declaration of the appeal. It has been transmitted to Adelbert Hay, United States consul at Pretoria, who will submit it to the two Presidents. This marks the end of the first overture towards peace. It is believed here, however, that another effort will soon be made by the Boers to attain peace, though recourse may be had to some other agency than the United States. The President has decided that it is not proper at this time to make public the text of the communications which have passed between Pretoria, London and Washington, relating to the peace negotiations. Therefore the latter resolution, adopted by the Senate, calling for the correspondence, must remain unanswered for the present, though there is reason to believe the cause for maintaining secrecy on this point will soon disappear. It is stated, however, that the press dispatches have indicated the salient features of the correspondence with sufficient accuracy and about the only omission, so far as can be learned, was the failure to develop the fact that the appeal of the Boers, however, that the United States might be allowed to intervene, was accompanied by an earnest expression by the President of his willingness to do anything within his power to bring about the termination of the war, which he hoped might be attained. Lord Salisbury's reply, while firmly declining the request of the Boer government, conveyed his appreciation of the commendable sentiments which inspired the President's utterances. Inasmuch as there appears to be some confusion in the public mind respecting the various efforts made by the Boers to end the war, it may be stated that this particular correspondence, passing through the State Department, was separate and apart from the note addressed by Presidents Kruger and Steyn to nearly all the continental powers believed to be in sympathy with their cause, and was also distinct from the appeal addressed directly to Lord Salisbury by the two Presidents, which, with his lordship's answer, formed the subject of the communication made by him yesterday to Parliament.

The Czar's Promise.

BERLIN, March 14.—The weekly reviewer of the Kreuz Zeitung, who is a well-known professor, and entertains close relations with Count Von Buelow, asserts to-day that Emperor Nicholas, at the beginning of the war in South Africa, gave a formal pledge that Russia would not take advantage of England's complications for a further Asiatic advance. The Kreuz Zeitung declares that this information is authentic. In high political circles here no surprise was felt at Lord Salisbury's reply to the Kruger-Steyn proposals. Doubtless such an answer was expected. Nor is it believed in the same circles that the war will

(CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE.)

GOLD THE LAW

IT HAS BEEN DECLARED THE STANDARD AFTER A LONG FIGHT.

Twenty-Seven Years of Warfare with Theorists Ended by the Signing of the Financial Bill.

PRESIDENT USED GOLD PEN

AND IT IS NOW IN POSSESSION OF H. H. HANNA, OF INDIANAPOLIS.

Bill Taken to the White House by Mr. Overstreet, Who Framed It and Pushed It Through Congress.

INSTRUCTIONS FROM GAGE

HOW BONDS WILL BE EXCHANGED UNDER THE NEW LAW.

Circular That Will Interest Banks and Individual Holders of Government Securities.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—With a stroke of his pen at 1 o'clock to-day President McKinley riveted the gold standard in the law of the land. That pen stroke was the culmination of a struggle that had been waged continuously for twenty-seven years—ever since the legislation which Senator Stewart has characterized in countless pages of the Congressional Record as the "crime of '73." It is an incident which might appear insignificant to mention in connection with to-day's momentous performance at the White House, but it has nevertheless adorned it with a pleasant fancy; it is recorded the President signed his name with a gold pen, provided for the occasion by Representative Overstreet, framer of the bill, and subsequently presented as a souvenir to H. H. Hanna, commander-in-chief of the last three years' campaign for monetary reform. Mr. Hanna took this precious memento home with him this afternoon to Indianapolis.

The signing of the bill which gave the gold standard a fixed place on the statutes was not accompanied by particularly dramatic or theatrical features. Indeed it was a very matter of fact performance in a physical sense. There was no beating of drums, no parade, no stage effect. The President simply affixed his signature to the document in precisely the same manner he had in hundreds of other cases every day, and the deed was done. The bill was signed at 1:40 p. m.

In talking with Mr. Overstreet the President recalled to those who stood by the fact that many of the important financial bills which had been passed by Congress had been approved on the 14th of the month. He spoke of the Sherman act, the resumption act, and now the bill which was before him.

Among the statesmen who estimate legislation for exchange and accepted for that purpose prior to that date will bear interest to April 1, and interest on the new bonds will begin; and the present worth of such surrendered bonds will be calculated as of the said April 1. The new bonds will be issued in denominations as follows: Coupons, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000. Registered, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$50,000, \$100,000. "All bonds for exchange and accepted for that purpose prior to that date will be regarded as the property of the person, firm, or institution in whose favor the new bonds are to be issued, and in each case the check in settlement of the 'present worth,' etc., above referred to will be drawn in favor of such person, firm, or institution; but, if the agent forwarding the bonds shall desire, and so request, the bonds and the check may be forwarded to such agents address for delivery to the owner.

"Packages containing bonds for surrender, or papers representing bonds held by the treasurer of the United States in trust for a national bank, should be addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, Division of Loans and Currency, Washington, D. C., and be plainly marked 'bonds for exchange and accepted for that purpose prior to that date.'"

"Blank forms of application for the exchanges herein authorized, and blank resolutions for use by institutions have been prepared by the department, and may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Treasury."

"In exercise of the discretion given to the secretary of the treasury under Section 11 of the act, he is hereby authorized to suspend the exchange of bonds at the rate of 24 per cent. whenever in his opinion, the interests of the government may be best served thereby. The secretary of the treasury also reserves the right to change the terms of exchange above set forth, either by requiring a bonus or premium upon the 3 per cent. bonds, or by requiring the holders of bonds outstanding to surrender the same in exchange for the new bonds at a rate to yield income of more than 2 1/2 per cent. per annum."

EXCHANGE OF BONDS.

Instructions Issued by Assistant Secretary Vandervip.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Assistant Secretary Vandervip to-day issued a circular of instructions and information to persons desiring to exchange old bonds for the new 2 per cents. under the financial bill signed by the President to-day. Mr. Vandervip says:

"By the expression 'present worth' yielded for exchange at 24 per cent. per annum' is meant such a price as would yield to the investor a return of his money at the maturity of the bond with interest on the duplicate receipts representing such bonds, and in case the bonds new held are 5 per cent. bonds of 1864 or 4 per cent. of 1877, there will also be required a certificate of deposit of an assistant treasurer of the United States showing a transfer of funds to the treasurer of the United States of an amount equal to 5 per cent. of the face of the bonds to be exchanged."

"To effect the exchange the outstanding bonds should be surrendered to the secretary of the treasury in accordance with the terms of this circular. They will be ac-

cepted for that purpose in the order of the surrender of them to him and new bonds bearing interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum will be issued in the same order in lieu thereof. A letter of transmittal should accompany each package of bonds for exchange, setting forth the purpose for which they are forwarded and giving the address to which the new bonds and checks for the interest thereon shall be sent.

"Bonds held by the treasurer of the United States in trust for a national bank may be surrendered by letter addressed to the secretary of the treasury, accompanied with the treasurer's receipt representing the bonds, together with a resolution of the board of directors of the bank authorizing the treasurer to assign the bonds."

"The priority of issue of the new bonds will be determined by the date of the receipt by the secretary of the treasury of outstanding bonds or the papers representing the same, provided that the bonds or papers are in proper condition for such surrender as set forth hereafter in this circular. If any correction is required the priority of the bonds to be issued will take date from the receipt and acceptance of corrected bonds or papers at this office."

REGISTERED BONDS.

"All registered bonds forwarded should be assigned to the secretary of the treasury for exchange into 2 per cent. bonds. The assignment should be dated and witnessed by one of the officers named in the note which is printed on the back of each bond. Where a new bond is desired in the name of any one but the payee of the old bond the old bond should be assigned to the secretary of the treasury for exchange into 2 per cent. bonds for account of [here insert the name of the person in whose favor the bond is to be issued.] Registered bonds inscribed in the name of an institution, forwarded for exchange, must be accompanied by a resolution of the board of directors of the institution authorizing their assignment to the secretary of the treasury for such exchange. The resolution must bear the seal of the institution, or if the institution have no seal there must be furnished with the resolution an affidavit setting forth that fact."

"Upon acceptance of any bonds for exchange under the conditions of this circular the present worth of the surrendered bonds to yield an income of 2 1/2 per cent. per annum will be calculated as the date of their acceptance, except as provided in the next paragraph, and the sum representing the difference between the present worth of said bonds and their par value will be paid to the owner thereof in due course by check drawn in his favor by the treasurer of the United States. "All bonds for exchange and accepted for that purpose prior to that date will be regarded as the property of the person, firm, or institution in whose favor the new bonds are to be issued, and in each case the check in settlement of the 'present worth,' etc., above referred to will be drawn in favor of such person, firm, or institution; but, if the agent forwarding the bonds shall desire, and so request, the bonds and the check may be forwarded to such agents address for delivery to the owner."

"Packages containing bonds for surrender, or papers representing bonds held by the treasurer of the United States in trust for a national bank, should be addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, Division of Loans and Currency, Washington, D. C., and be plainly marked 'bonds for exchange and accepted for that purpose prior to that date.'"

"Blank forms of application for the exchanges herein authorized, and blank resolutions for use by institutions have been prepared by the department, and may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Treasury."

"In exercise of the discretion given to the secretary of the treasury under Section 11 of the act, he is hereby authorized to suspend the exchange of bonds at the rate of 24 per cent. whenever in his opinion, the interests of the government may be best served thereby. The secretary of the treasury also reserves the right to change the terms of exchange above set forth, either by requiring a bonus or premium upon the 3 per cent. bonds, or by requiring the holders of bonds outstanding to surrender the same in exchange for the new bonds at a rate to yield income of more than 2 1/2 per cent. per annum."

EXCHANGE OF BONDS.

Instructions Issued by Assistant Secretary Vandervip.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Assistant Secretary Vandervip to-day issued a circular of instructions and information to persons desiring to exchange old bonds for the new 2 per cents. under the financial bill signed by the President to-day. Mr. Vandervip says:

"By the expression 'present worth' yielded for exchange at 24 per cent. per annum' is meant such a price as would yield to the investor a return of his money at the maturity of the bond with interest on the duplicate receipts representing such bonds, and in case the bonds new held are 5 per cent. bonds of 1864 or 4 per cent. of 1877, there will also be required a certificate of deposit of an assistant treasurer of the United States showing a transfer of funds to the treasurer of the United States of an amount equal to 5 per cent. of the face of the bonds to be exchanged."

"To effect the exchange the outstanding bonds should be surrendered to the secretary of the treasury in accordance with the terms of this circular. They will be ac-

(CONTINUED ON FIFTH PAGE.)

BIG FIRE LOSS

C. B. CONES & SON CO. OVERALL FACTORY BURNED TO THE GROUND.

The Owner Estimates That His Loss on Building and Contents Will Reach \$100,000.

FOUR FIREMEN ARE INJURED

MEMBERS OF A COMPANY CAUGHT UNDER FALLING WALLS.

Frank Mankin, the Only One Seriously Hurt, Is Taken to the City Hospital.

THE FIRE BURNED FIERCELY

AND THE MEN WORKED VALIANTLY TO SAVE OTHER BUILDINGS.

Factory Building Was Formerly Gilmore's Variety Theater—Details of the Fire.

Last night at 9:04 o'clock the fire department was called by an alarm from box 417 to a fire which proved most destructive and for a time threatened to consume the entire block between Washington street, West Court street, Senate avenue and Missouri street. The square is the one in which the Star store, which was burned Sunday night, was situated.

The fire was in the overall factory of C. B. Cones, Son & Co., who occupy the rebuilt and remodeled building made famous in city history as Gilmore's Zoo and a variety theater. The entire building and contents were destroyed and the loss is estimated at \$100,000. So fiercely did the fire burn that it was only by hardest work that the flames were confined to the one building. The night watchman turned in the alarm from the call box in the place, and before the fire department arrived the building was a mass of flames, and it was at once seen that no amount of work could save it. The first line of hose was therefore laid with the intention of protecting the other buildings. Engine company No. 1, Captain J. O. George, was one of the first at the fire and the hose was laid to the north of the building. The efforts of the men were directed toward the seat of the fire, the boiler room in the rear. The company was composed of Frank Mankin, 333 Massachusetts avenue; Edward Hartnett, 515 Blake street; Leonard Wesley, 209 West Sixteenth street and Patrick McMahon, 330 South Missouri street.

BURNED UNDER DEBRIS.

The fire came near being their last, for, while working alongside of the rear portion, the walls gave way and all four of the men were buried beneath the debris. Sergeant Lowe, who hurried to the fire, was walking in Oage street, and narrowly escaped being caught by the falling timbers and walls. He saw the firemen fall beneath and gave the alarm. The men were the only line of hose in service on that portion of the fire and for a few moments it seemed as if they were destined to be consumed. The heat was intense and but few of the crowd which took such an active interest in their salvation ventured close enough to the building to see what was necessary. Their groans and cries could be heard by the spectators on West Court street. Sergeant Lowe, Sgt. Wallace and Detective Holtz were most active and Wallace and Holtz secured the hose which had been thrown aside by the men. They were unable to handle it and Wallace was almost knocked down by the stream which struck him in the face when the nozzle was wrenched from their grasp. Several men began pulling at the heads and shafts of the hose and soon the men were seen pinned and held by timbers and iron bars a few feet away.

The flames were fast nearing them and all were badly scorched, though not seriously. After a few of the barriers had been taken out the men were able to help themselves, with the exception of Mankin, who was pulled out and carried into a resort on Court street, where he was cared for until the arrival of the ambulance. He was taken to the City Hospital. He was badly burned about the limbs and suffered from a bruised head and ankle. His injuries will not prove serious.

The other members of the company quickly disappeared, after satisfying the police and others that no more men had fallen in the ruins. It was rumored afterward that another man was still in the burning debris and many thought they could hear his groans, but the firemen said they were the only ones there, and that they saw the danger and the walls bulging and tried to get out of the way, but were not quick enough. They were also hindered by their hose, which they tried to pull out with them.

BURNED LIKE PAPER.

The building was nothing but a shell and burned like paper. A brisk breeze from the north assisted the fire in its progress and work of destruction and carried the flames high in the air and over the store buildings fronting on Washington street. These were in great danger and one company went into the alley between them and the burning building. Three minutes after the fire broke out the walls began giving way and they were obliged to retreat from the flames and because of the imminent danger of collapse of the building. Upon the arrival of the companies called by the second alarm several lines of hose were carried over the buildings from the Washington-street side and from there played on the fire in the overall factory. The water tower, which was brought out at the second alarm, was placed in position on Washington street for use in emergency and was finally put into use when fire made its way into the rear of the drug store of Louis H. Renkert. The Glazier nozzles were also put into service.

The whole building collapsed about thirty minutes after the fire broke out and thus lessened the danger to the Washington-street buildings.

BUILDINGS IN DANGER.

The buildings on Washington street which were in danger of burning were occupied by James Moxley, saloon, No. 302; Frank Gisdler, saloon, No. 304; S. Benzer, dry goods, No. 300; Aurora tea store, No.